he only threw out this suggestion for what it might be worth and left it to the Government to decide what should be done in the circumstances.

Reply.—This does not fall within the province of the Popular Assembly, nor is there any necessity for the appointment of a commission of the kind suggested by the member.

154. Will the Dewan or the Financial Secretary explain whether in view of the excess of the State expenditure over receipts any steps have been taken to regulate the expenditure?

Mr. M. Narayana Panicker (Ampalapuzha), Mr. Padmanabhan Parameswaran and Mr. Narayanan Velayudhan (Pathanapuram), Mr. Padmanabha Pillai (Karunagapalli) and Mr. K. Parameswaran Pillai B. A., B. L., (Nayar Samajam, Quilon), brought forward this question.

Reply.—This question cannot be allowed.

155. Regulation of State expenditure by discussion in the Legislative Council.

Mr. M. Narayana Panicker, (Ampalapuzha) suggested the desirability of discussing the measures to be adopted for the regulation of State expenditure in the Legislative Council.

Reply.—This will be considered when the existing rules for the conduct of business in the Legislative Council are revised.

VI. Sanitation and Vital Statistics.

156. Compulsory registration of vital statistics and the maintenance of vital statistics registers certified by the principal member of each village.

Mr. V. A. Ramakrishna Iyer, B. A., B. L., (T. I. C., Trivandrum) said that the correct registration of births and deaths was indispensable for gauging the public health of towns and for knowing the effect of the various sanitary measures introduced. The cry all over was that this department was not properly administered and that the figures supplied were very inaccurate. Year after year Government had occasion to criticize the working of the present system and the member thought it would be impossible to have a correct list of births and deaths, so long as the people were not legally bound to supply information to the officers concerned. The President of the Town Improvement Committee of Trivandrum as well as the Sanitary Com-

LIBRARY ARCHIVES Kerala Legislative Assembly

missioner had addressed Government on this subject and he himself had brought forward the same for the consideration of Government at the last session of the Assembly. He prayed that some such provision as was contained in the Madras District Municipalities Act might be introduced, as a tentative measure in some town, to see how far it worked, and then extended to the other towns also.

Mr. Ponnaiya Nadar of Eraniel (Nominated) suggested that a register of births and deaths might be maintained in every village certified by the principal member thereof and that the requisite books for this purpose might be furnished by the Government, as otherwise it would not be possible to ensure uniformity.

Reply.—Section 109 of the Towns Conservancy and Improvement Regulation (III of 1076) requires the committee to keep a register of births and deaths and sections 110 to 112 contemplate an officer of the committee obtaining the information. What is intended by these provisions seems to be not to impose the primary obligation to furnish information on the parents or other relations of the new-born or the deceased. In November last, in reviewing the report on the administration of the Sanitary department for 1081, Government took up this subject and have invited proposals from the Presidents of the Town Improvement Committees as to the expediency of introducing compulsory registration of births and deaths within the areas under their charge, and the matter will receive attention in due course. The member has properly not suggested its extension to the rural parts of the State, as there are numerous difficulties in the way.

As regards Mr. Ponnaiya Nadar's suggestion, vital statistics are now kept in each proverty cutcherry, but the enforcement of a certificate from the principal member of the family requires legislation.

157. Introduction of village sanitation.

Mr. Paul Daniel M. A., L. T., (Native Christian Association, Nagercoil) said that the sanitation of rural parts was very much neglected and that contagious diseases in certain seasons of the year made terrible havoc among the people on account of their want of attention to sanitary matters. He suggested that village sanitary boards might be organized under the presidency of Tahsildars to remove this defect.

Reply.—Forty-two villages are now under rural conservancy

LIBRARY ARCHIVES Kerala Legislative Assembly